

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

OCTOBER, 1939

VOL. 84, No. 8



MRS. INEZ JOHNSON WOODALL

(See page 131)

TRANSLATION

Tons of Bibles for Chungking

Here is the sequel to "Adventuring for Christ in China" which appeared in the September "Bible Society Record." It should be read with a map of southeastern Asia at hand, and with prayers for China, and high resolves that the hunger of her people for the Word of God shall be satisfied

By Rev. Carleton Lacy, D.D.

"SEVENTEEN bombing planes are raiding Chungking." This was the message that came to us at 2:00 a. m., as we waited in a little town near the southern bank of the Wu River. We had been sleeping in our trucks, waiting for the signal to move on to the ferry. The Wu Kiang ferry had been seriously congested. High water and a very swift current had made it difficult for the primitive barges, propelled entirely by manpower, to cope with the huge traffic along this thoroughfare into Chungking. With this river crossed, it would be only a day and a half drive into the capital city whither we were headed with four and a half tons of Bibles, and two more truck loads of other Christian literature and supplies.

Now came the word of another raid. Would there be anything left of the great city that had already suffered so terribly from bombs and fire? Would it be worth while to drive our trucks into that danger with their precious load of Scriptures which we had brought so far? What would we find when we got there? During the rest of the night these questions mingled with the buzz of mosquitoes and the wailing of a disconsolate widow keeping watch over a coffin close to where our cars were parked. At dawn came the order to move on to the ferry, and we responded without hesitation. The following afternoon we crossed the Yangtze, and our four trucks ended their 1,100-mile run in front of the Bible House on Mi Hwa Kiai.

Chungking had long waited for these books. Month after month all winter and spring air-mail letters and telegrams had reached us in Shanghai begging for more Scriptures. Every possible effort over all available routes had failed to meet the demand. A big shipment sent into Chekiang had been blocked by the cutting of the railway when Nanchang fell. Shipments through Indo-China had been slowed



On one of many ferries

up by congestion on the narrow gauge railway into Yunnan. Our Kunming office had sent all the books it possibly could. But multitudes of people in Szechwan were buying Bibles, and now the provinces of the northwest and even of Central China were sending thither for Scriptures. Finally, we had concluded that it would be necessary to buy a truck, load it with books on the coast, and drive it to Chungking.

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The four trucks en route

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution
of the Holy Scriptures

VOLUME 84

OCTOBER 1939

NUMBER 8

In the Hour of Trial

WAR is raging in Europe as we go to press. The areas involved are served by the various European Bible Societies, which will naturally find many of their channels of circulation closed. Elsewhere in this issue is the report of a meeting, held in July, of representatives of the largest Bible Societies in the world—all of whom are European except the American Bible Society. As in all times of special need, the demand for Scriptures in the warring countries will increase along with the problems of publication and distribution. The American Bible Society, as in 1914, will be called upon to help in this frightful emergency, especially in aiding the European Societies to maintain their work in mission lands. The Society's budget was prepared with no such contingency in view. The Society, however, has never failed in times of widespread need, and will confidently look to its friends and friends of the Bible throughout the land to make strong its hand of mercy in this emergency.

. . .

World Youth and the Bible

SCARCELY more than a month before the outbreak of hostilities in Europe there met in the city of Amsterdam, Holland, a World Conference of Christian Youth. It was not an official gathering, but was primarily interested in Bible study, worship, and the discussion of religious issues. The conference passed no resolutions, but did issue a statement from which the following paragraphs are quoted. They are the more significant in the light of what has happened to change the world scene since.

"We are fifteen hundred delegates from over seventy peoples. We are divided in national allegiance; we are separated by denominational and confessional barriers; we are members of

different Christian organizations; we are drawn from every walk of life. And yet we are here together because we belong together as those who have one calling and acknowledge one Lord. It is he who draws us together, and it is by him that we have been held together these ten days.

"We came in hope, believing in the power of Christ to be victorious over the things which separate us. He has not disappointed us. We have seen that where we subject ourselves to his will, he is victorious over our differences.

"We know that we have met at a time of acute international conflict, and we are grateful to God that it has been possible for us to meet at all. As we have talked together, we have be-

come aware how often we have put our national loyalties before our allegiance to God. We have seen that, when the church becomes fully the fellowship of those who seek first the kingdom of God, it is the hope of the world. . . .

"We believe that those who planned this conference were guided by God when they placed Bible study in such a central place. Many of us have discovered the Bible afresh, and in so far as we have allowed God to speak to us, he has become a living God, declaring a living message for our own lives and our generation. We confess, however, to our humiliation, that our study has revealed considerable unfamiliarity with the Bible.

"Is it not due to this, that we are not clear and articulate about the fundamentals of our faith, and do not take a definite stand in relation to the many conflicting ideologies and blind faiths which find so many followers among youth? Therefore, we summon ourselves and our fellow Christians to consecrated and intelligent study

of the Bible, to hear in it the word of life which Christ speaks to us.

"We have also found that there is much confusion among us as to the relation of the message of the Bible to the decisions which we must take as youth today. We have come to see that the Bible has far more light to shed on these problems than we knew, and so we desire to explore its wealth with far greater eagerness. We are also convinced that real Bible study must lead to definite choices and decisions in all areas of life. To listen to God means to obey him.

"As we now return to our different lands and to our different callings within the one church of Christ, we do so with the conviction that the adventure of cooperation and fellowship which we have been led to, must be faithfully carried on. This world gathering marks the beginning of an ever-widening task. We realize that in Christ is our strength. 'The people who do know their God shall be strong and do exploits.'"

(Continued from page 122)

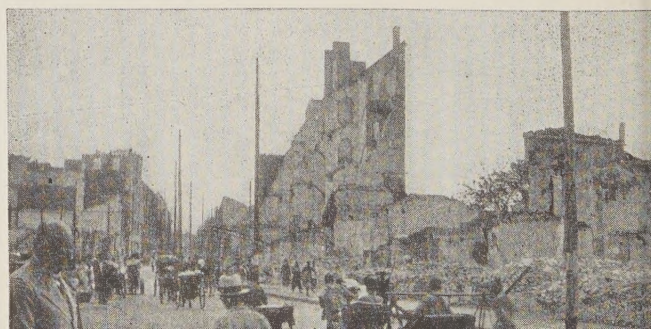
This decision had just been reached, when the May series of bombings wrought such havoc on the new capital. But Secretary Lin wrote that in the midst of burned ruins, while all neighboring shops were closed, the Bible House was still open and selling what few books remained on the shelves. So we pressed on, ordered the trucks, and sent off the first twenty-five cases of books to Swatow. Then came a telegram saying the Swatow route had become impossible, and cargoes had to be transhipped to Haiphong. That involved delays and the complications of passing the French customs as well as the Chinese. And passing the French customs in the tropical port of Indo-China is a time-consuming process. Thus it was the last week in June instead of the first before we finally left the coast.

Four Christian literature publishers joined in this caravan—the China Bible House, the National Bible Society of Scotland, the Christian Literature Society, and the Signs of the Times Publishing House. Each provided one truck and loaded it with over two tons of its own publications. We had to carry half a ton of gasoline on each car; for the price rose rapidly, being \$1.40 a gallon in Shanghai and \$5.40 a gallon

in Kweiyang where we took on some extra supplies. In addition, we had paper and a stapling machine and wire for the little mission press which is now printing Gospel portions for us in Chungking; some medical supplies and hospital equipment without which it seemed hardly decent to travel to the stricken West; a few trunks and suitcases of personal supplies for friends so far from the coast (these included a suit of clothes for Colporteur R. R. Holder which had been in Shanghai a year and a half waiting for some way of getting it to the Tibetan border; a few tins of coffee, which had to be slipped in when we learned that the price in Chungking was seven dollars for half a pound; several dozen tennis balls for recreation at the West China Union University, two or three typewriters, a pair of shoes, ivory soap and kodak films).

The expedition was in charge of Pastor E. L. Longway of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission, a veteran of the road who has been driving cars and trucks over many routes ever since the

*Chungking ruins
near the Bible House*





The central building with the large window is the unscathed Bible House

war began. He handled all the details of car purchase and customs passage, and drove the leading truck over most difficult roads with a care and a skill that was imitated by the other three drivers. As a result, in the long journey the only accident was one broken spring leaf, and there was not even a single flat tire. This was little short of marvelous along a road that is strewn with wrecks and full of perils. The steep grades over high mountain passes, the many sharp hairpin turns, the construction work which is proceeding in many places, and the lack of skill and experience on the part of many chauffeurs who are driving over this highway, offered so many hazards, that we felt grateful indeed when our journey was successfully ended.

While the books were being unloaded at the Chungking Bible House, a young man stepped up and inquired, "Are those trucks for sale?" He was assured that they were, and the next evening the transaction was put through at a price which covered, not only the cost of the truck, but also of the transportation of our

books from Shanghai to Chungking. But that is not the end of the story.

While the books were being unpacked, Mr. Lin handed me a sheaf of orders. With them was a telegram from our depot in Sian, 400 miles north, asking that as many books as possible be forwarded from Chungking. The next day our secretary from Chengtu, Mr. Franck, arrived and wanted us to reload a truck and drive at least half of these books on to the provincial capital. "If you don't," he said, "I may as well shut up shop; for my shelves are empty, and people are coming every day for Bibles." That afternoon the superintendent of the Lutheran churches in Honan Province called; he wanted \$1,000 worth of Bibles to take back to his churches, which for months had been unable to get Scriptures. And the next day, the student secretary of the Y. W. C. A. came in to tell of the scores of students in the universities nearby who had organized themselves into fellowship groups and were asking for New Testaments. From all sides the calls are so insistent, that we shall have to arrange perhaps for three truck loads of Bibles to be sent in just as soon as we can get back to the coast. My only fear is that, with similar calls pouring into the Shanghai office from every part of the country, there simply won't be enough Bibles to go round.

. . .

Bijbelgenootschappen!

By F. Lyman MacCallum

HE stood there in vivid colors, his workman's hand raised toward the divine light which streamed down upon them through the pages of the open Bible. Near him knelt a few humble folk who shared his hope, but were not yet involved in his struggle. Opposed to them rose the commanding figure of a high prelate, arm and forefinger outstretched in a final, passionate gesture of threatening authority. Behind him were ranged the dark forces of the Inquisition, which were so soon to light the fire that destroyed the poor body of John the Baker, and set ablaze the spirit of the Dutch Reformation.

For an hour and a half we sat before this stirring window in the Jacobs Kerk, and

watched the play of its broken lights falling upon a great Sunday morning congregation. Of the service we understood scarcely a word, but we came out into the quiet Sunday streets feeling that we had been given some insight into the courageous and devoted soul of Holland. As with our own people, the Bible has a place there.

World Youth Conference

The pageant was so excitingly appropriate, that it almost seemed as though the indefatigable Dr. Rutgers had himself arranged it for the special benefit of the Bible Societies Conference. First, we had been conducted through a remarkable exhibit of Biblical art, and had seen unforgettable paintings and prints by Rem-

brandt and other great men. And now having been received by the Minister of Education of Holland, we stood in a pillared hall of the great Rijksmuseum, watching fifteen hundred delegates from the World Youth Conference arrive for a state reception. On and on they came, a seemingly endless stream of youth, in all the colors and costumes of the world, each young person a representative of thousands or millions of others in the homeland. A spirit quite different from that of their cheerful excitement began to lay hold upon the knot of Bible Societies' representatives who stood by the edge of this stream. How was the Bible to be given its due place in the life of world youth? With this question the young people themselves were struggling in their gatherings, and it is certainly not one for the Bible Societies alone. But a sense of solemn responsibility and of dedication came over us before we turned to seek out our personal friends among the throng which was strolling and chatting beneath the old masters in the endless galleries upstairs.

The Conference

The conference of Bijbelgenootschappen (Bible Societies) took place at the Student Christian Movement Conference center at Woudschoten, near Utrecht. This splendid building owes its existence to the energy of Dr. H. C. Rutgers, who, as secretary of the Netherlands Bible Society, was chiefly responsible for calling together under its roof delegates from the American, British, Dutch, French, Norwegian, and Scottish Bible Societies. Others were invited, but could not send representatives. Dr. Rutgers was not only our genial, thoughtful host, but everybody's errand boy as well. No matter was too small for him to give it his whole attention till it was successfully concluded. To Dr. Rutgers the conference owed much, both for its inception and its success.

Dr. Hendrik Kraemer, another of the Dutch delegates, was also one of the chief contributors. His opening address set forth almost startlingly some new requirements of the work, and throughout his day of chairmanship he never allowed any escape into those comfortable generalities which are the usual haven of conferences. At least three of the ten final resolutions of the conference were the direct outcome of proposals made in the opening address.

Dr. North, who headed the American Bible

Society delegation, and Dr. Temple who did the same for the British and Foreign Bible Society, were a joy to watch. So closely did they work together, so well did they seem to know what was required and how to go about getting it, that anyone might have taken them for representatives of the same organization.

The strong delegation from the National Bible Society of Scotland, led by their chairman, the Reverend A. Irvine Pirie, and their energetic new general secretary, the Reverend R. F. Chisholm, took an alert and constructive part.

Results

Was the conference worth while? What did it do? One of the chief values of any conference is the intangible one which comes from corporate thinking and worship, and from the individual contacts and understandings which the conference makes possible. But beyond this the conference resulted in a call to the Bible Societies—



International fellowship. Left to right: Secretary North (ABS), Secretary Temple (BFBS), Secretary Chisholm (NBSS), Secretary Rutgers (NBS)

(a) To consider the value of issuing as "introductory translations" collections of Bible stories, as well as paraphrases which are not literal translations of the sacred text;

(b) To encourage the more effective use as well as the wider circulation of the Scriptures;

(c) To study the need of special versions for those who can barely read;

(d) To review the fields now occupied, and see where fuller cooperations between two or more Societies might lead to improved and extended distribution.

In addition to all this, it was recommended

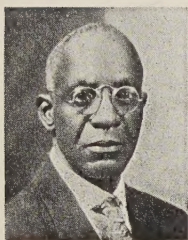
that the Bible Societies form a council to facilitate their combined action in many situations where they now act independently and some-

times at cross purposes. Woudschoten is certain to leave its mark on the work of all the participating Bible Societies.

Mr. MacCallum contributes a more detailed account of the Conference on pages 132 and 133 of this issue.

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M. L. Vaughters



IN April 1920, the Reverend M. L. Vaughters, D.D., became a Subagency Secretary of the Agency among the Colored People, with headquarters in Houston, Texas. Previous to that time, he had served the Society as a

colporteur under the direction of the Reverend John P. Wragg, D.D., the late Secretary of the Colored Agency, and had held several pastorates in Georgia and Texas. When it became necessary to appoint a Subagency Secretary to give attention to the Scripture needs of the large number of colored people in Texas and its neighboring states, Dr. Wragg called upon Dr. Vaughters who had given such fine service to the Society in his student days.

Dr. Vaughters was born in Carnesville, Georgia, on November 22, 1877, son of the Reverend Peter and Mrs. Martha J. Vaughters. He received his college and theological training at Paine College, Augusta, Georgia, with the degree of bachelor of arts. The honorary degree of doctor of divinity was conferred upon him later by Texas College at Tyler, Texas. He was ordained a minister of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in 1902.

When Dr. Wragg retired in 1929 to become Secretary Emeritus of the Agency among the Colored People, the Subagency Secretaries became directly responsible to the home office and were thereafter known as Division Secretaries.

In 1935 the Division in Houston was transferred to Dallas, where there is a depository and the Southwestern District office of the Society. From his office in Dallas, Dr. Vaughters was responsible for the Scripture needs of the colored people in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Since 1920 there have been distributed under Dr. Vaughters' direction, by sale and donation, over a half million Scripture volumes including Bibles, Testaments, and Portions.

Although Dr. Vaughters had not been well since his vacation, the news of his death on September 2 came unexpectedly. Funeral services were held at the Boll Street Colored Methodist Episcopal Church of Dallas on September 5, and interment was in Carnesville, Georgia. To his wife and daughter we send assurance of our deep sympathy in his loss.

The Board of Managers, at its meeting on September 7, adopted the following minute:

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society records with much sorrow the death of the Reverend M. L. Vaughters, D.D., minister of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church and for nineteen years Secretary of the Society's Division of work among the colored people in the southwest of the United States.

Dr. Vaughters' service to the great cause was marked by a deep love of the Scriptures, by a faithful devotion, and by wisdom and self-sacrificing efforts to advance the distribution of the Scriptures and to direct the affairs of the work. He was warmly beloved by his colleagues and respected by all who knew him, and his loss will long be regretted.

Officers of the American Bible Society

President, John T. Manson
General Secretary, Rev. Eric M. North, Ph.D., D.D.
Editorial and Recording Secretary, Rev. Francis C. Stifler, D.D.
Associate Secretary, Rome A. Betts, M.A.
Assistant Secretary, James Oscar Boyd, Ph.D., D.D.
Treasurer, Gilbert Darlington

Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York

Offices and Depositories in the United States

Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, and San Francisco.
Colored Agency offices in Atlanta, Charlotte, Cleveland, and Dallas.

Foreign Agencies

Havana, Mexico City, Cristobal, Lima (Peru), Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Beirut, Cairo, Manila, Shanghai, and Tokyo.

Echo of the Devil's Roar

The ideal supporter of the American Bible Society is presented in this story, prepared from correspondence in the Society's file by the assistant in the office of the South Atlantic District. Mrs. Andres is a Life Member and regular contributor. She personally aids a missionary abroad in distributing the Scriptures, and is herself a distributor in the home field. If but one person in every church in the country should follow Mrs. Andres' program, the work of Bible distribution, and the ability of the American Bible Society to administer it, would be multiplied many times

By Dave A. Parker

Brewery Road, Quetta, India
April 18, 1939

"**D**EAR Aunt Lena:

"Here we use Gospels in the Urdu language, and also in about twelve other languages. Hindi also is much used, and others. Of course, I lose money on each order of books; but our object is to get God's Word to the people at any price.

"Last week it was my joy to go to a town where God's Word had not been freely circulated. In one day nearly 300 Gospels were bought. Of course, the devil roars when God works, and he came in the form of a Mohammedan priest, urging the people not to buy, calling out names, gathering a set of rough fellows to follow me and tear up Gospels, throwing the pieces on me. The Lord gave wonderful peace of heart and patience to talk with them quietly, and to sell to others in the midst of such rabble. The next day, when I went to the bazaar again, the priest brought a policeman to stop me. I told the police that I had permission from the British government to sell Gospels, and then he got afraid and went away. The priest raged, but I went on selling; and that day, too, the Lord gave good success.

"On the train, coming back to Quetta, I had a good time with the women, singing gospel songs. How some of them loved to listen and asked for more and more! I sang for them everything that I knew in their language. Then

they bought Gospels, and those who couldn't read asked me to read to them. So I read from the Gospel according to Mark, and they listened and asked for more. It was a happy train journey, and I know that at least one Gospel has gone to a far station where I have not yet been. The Lord be praised for all his goodness. . . .

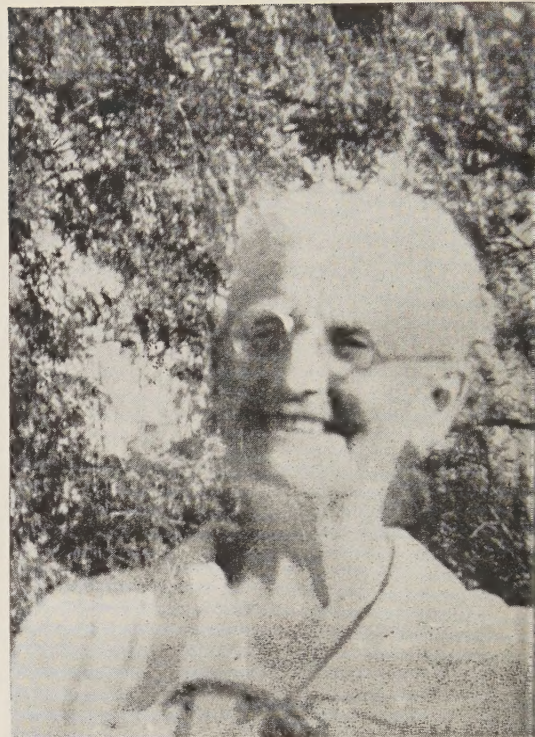
—Eva Penner."

This letter came halfway around the world to a white-haired lady with a wide and ready smile, who lives in Falfurrias, Texas, near the Mexican border. Mrs. H. Andres is the Aunt Lena who, when reading this letter, could not hear the roar of the devil, but only the echo of that roar.

Yet, the echo was enough.

A member of John 3:16 Frontier Mission, Mrs. Andres is an active and ardent distributor of the Gospel in that section of the country. She has recently closed a daily vacation Bible school of seventy Mexican children. "I do wish you could have been here to see how hungry these dear children were for the gospel. Oft-times, while I was relating to them some kind deed of our dear Lord and Saviour, tears gathered in their eyes. They eagerly took notes of all—never to forget what they had heard."

Knowing as she did that her little job was being well done, Mrs. Andres could not quite forget the echo of the devil's roar from across



the ocean. She could not meet the challenge directly which she read in the letter from her niece. India was as far away to Mrs. Andres as it is to you and me.

Mrs. Andres' problem was to do something here at the home base to help spread the Word of God all over the world—in India, in Africa, South America, China, Japan. . . . But those countries, too, are far-off and vague to most of us. We hear the names, yet how can we, one by one, reach out across thousands of miles into the homes and hearts of people living clear across the world!

Yet, that is exactly what Mrs. Andres has done. And she has never left her native countryside!

First, Mrs. Andres became a Life Member of the American Bible Society by the payment of fifty dollars.

I cannot tell you in words how thankful I am to really possess a Life Membership certificate of the Bible Society, which I have longed for for many years. I hope, although I feel so unworthy of it, that God may help me to be at least of some assistance in spreading the Word of God—in getting it into all the world.

Still not satisfied with what she had done, Mrs. Andres campaigned most ardently for the Society in its Easter Seal sales. She ordered fifty-five sheets of "Read the Bible" stamps, and sold them in her community to friends and neighbors. Still not satisfied, she wrote,

Would it be all right for me, not only to get folks to buy the stamps for the mailing of letters, but to try to interest railroad agents to stamp all the fruit baskets and parcels? I would like to get the truck growers and fruit growers interested in stamping all baskets for God.

Over in Quetta, India, Miss Eva Penner faces the devil's roar, and down in Texas Mrs. Andres still hears the echo. But she knows that through the world-wide organization of the American Bible Society she is doing her part to spread the Word of God.

The American Bible Society salutes Mrs. Andres and Miss Eva Penner for their earnest efforts toward the mutual goal we have set ourselves. Though these two are worlds apart, they work together daily through the far-flung empire of the American and British and Foreign Bible Societies to still the echo of the devil's roar.

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Miles of Bibles

DURING 1938 the American Bible Society distributed throughout the world 312,975 Bibles, 532,727 Testaments, and 6,125,055 Portions—a total of 6,970,757 volumes of Scripture. It is hard to conceive the significance of such figures. After a careful estimate of the thickness of the books, it was found that, stacked in a column, they would reach 151 times as high as the Trylon at the New York World's Fair, which is 700 feet high. Upon the ground, the books would stretch just one hundred feet beyond twenty miles. Most of these books are earnestly read; for the great majority of them were circulated among people who have few books and to whom their Scripture volumes are therefore very precious. Most of them also are distributed by the hands of earnest Christian missionaries, whose own experience of Christ as he is found in the Bible makes most persuasive their recommendation of the Book they sell.



The Bible Van

Facts about It Thoughts It Raises

The Bible van has revealed in a conscientious survey of six typical rural counties that there are undoubtedly hundreds of thousands of Bibleless homes

among the 53,000,000 rural residents of the nation. The urban population, which is thirteen

THE young men and their wives who stand by the trailer are Rev. and Mrs. Carl Ledbetter of Atlanta, Indiana, and Rev. and Mrs. Robert Fuller of Indianapolis.

The Bible van was sent out by the Central District office of the American Bible Society.

It toured six rural counties in northeastern Indiana, calling at 2,500 homes seldom visited by anyone.

Twenty percent of the homes were found Bibleless.

Three thousand volumes of Scripture were distributed—mostly sold.

Large-print easily read Scriptures were the most popular.

Illustrated lectures on the work of the Society were given in fifteen churches.

Exhibits of the world-wide missionary work of the American Bible Society were displayed in a dozen populous centers.

A comprehensive religious census of the area covered was made and given to the local pastors.

A program of regular Bible reading was urged in every home visited, and helpful literature to this end left by the visitors.

Subscriptions to the *Bible Society Record* were taken in many homes.

The story of the van was carried in nine county papers circulating in the area.

The Society's Central District, covering the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Kentucky, includes 300 rural counties like the six covered by the Bible van. Proportionately, these represent 25,000 Bibleless rural homes in four states.

It Happened on the Bible Van

An invalid lady out in the country, where few Bible salesmen ever call, leaned far out of her bed to see a large-print New Testament being shown to her little girl, who was near-sighted and could read only very large type. Seldom before in that remote area had anyone approached the house with books for sale, and never before had anyone told her that it was possible to secure a New Testament in a type which her child could read.

The Bible van colporteur asked of one family the usual question: whether they had a Bible of good readable type. The reply was, "Yes, we have a Bible"; and it was brought out. It proved to be "The Modern Day and Time," and the owner said, "This is the Bible, isn't it?" The member of the team had to show them what the Bible was really like.

percent larger, is probably even more destitute of Scriptures.

People with no knowledge of the Bible and no church connection will not go to a store to purchase a Bible, although virtually every bookstore and many drug and ten-cent stores carry them. They must be persuaded of their need, as Mr. Ledbetter and Mr. Fuller and their wives sought to persuade those whom they called on in six Indiana counties.

This is the definite type of missionary work which the American Bible Society was organized to do. It calls for consecrated labor on the part of many people who expect from it no gain for themselves.

(See cover picture)

"She Hath Done What She Could"

*And the American Bible Society, together with a host
no man can number, rises up and calls her blessed*

By Francis C. Stifler

AT the Community Church in Jackson Heights, Long Island, during the early part of October, the American Bible Society will present a Bible to Mrs. Inez Johnson Woodall in recognition of fifty-seven unbroken years as a Bible teacher. In those years she has distributed thousands of the Society's penny portions to her classes and, through her classes, to those who otherwise would never have possessed the Scriptures.

Hale and hearty at seventy-three, Mrs. Woodall has for the past thirteen years been the teacher of the adult Bible Class in the Jackson Heights church. The class has a membership of one hundred and fifty, and an average attendance of half that number. It is one of the few groups in the community open to both men and women, outside of the sports clubs. It is a tower of strength to the church, and exercises marked influence in the community.

"I have always loved teaching," says Mrs. Woodall. "I began when I was a child, with dolls and dogs and cats. My serious teaching began when I was a college junior."

The list of the classes Mrs. Woodall has taught throughout the fifty-seven years is interesting in itself:

'Teen age boys in a Presbyterian church in Rome, Georgia, two years.

Organized a Sunday school in Bainbridge, Georgia, which has now, after fifty years, grown into one of the strongest Baptist churches in the state.

Young girls in a Cumberland Presbyterian church in Oxford, Mississippi, two years.

A cosmopolitan group of boys—English, German, Irish, and Negro—in a church in Cincinnati, Ohio, one year.

Women students in a college in Arkansas, three years.

Again a class of boys in Lake City, Florida, one of whom was afterward for twenty-five years the superintendent of the school.

Mature women in Senoia, Georgia.

An adult class in the downtown Ruggles

Street Baptist Church in Boston, four years.

A group of foreign-speaking mothers in the mill town of Hinsdale, New Hampshire, four years.

Missionary teacher in the mountains of western North Carolina, twenty years.

Seven Negro ministers in New York City while she herself was studying at the Biblical Seminary, one year.

Organized at Tennessee College, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a department of the Bible.

Foreign boys at Judson Memorial Church, New York City.

A class in Immanuel Baptist Sunday School, New Haven, Connecticut.

Dean of women in the Northwestern Bible Training School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and teacher of a class in the First Baptist Church there, five years.

Adult Bible Class in the Jackson Heights Community Church, thirteen years. (More than twenty denominations are represented in this community church.)

During all of these years Mrs. Woodall has had her family responsibilities, not being primarily a career woman. Each class she taught, she regarded as but her contribution to her community. She was never interested in statistics. All that can be said is, that her influence has been immeasurable.

Mrs. Woodall raised two children of her own and ten whom she took into her home, most of them during the twenty years of labor in the mountains of North Carolina.

"I feel that I gave more in those twenty years," Mrs. Woodall says, "than in any other period of my life. Working with the untutored people of that mountain region gave me flexibility and sympathy. I learned to value people for what they are, not for what they have or even what they know, or from any perfunctory sense of Christian duty."

Probably Mrs. Woodall's greatest contribution has been her remarkable genius for de-

(Turn to page 133)

"Very Great Issues"

By F. Lyman MacCallum

THE conference of Bible Societies convened by the Netherlands Bible Society at Woudschoten, near Utrecht, Holland, July 24-27, was perhaps the widest such gathering ever held, and correspondingly far-reaching results are to be hoped from it.

Vice President John R. Mott, Dr. A. L. Warnshuis, Secretary North, and Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum, subagent in Turkey, acted for the American Bible Society; Dr. John R. Temple, general secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, together with their home superintendent, literary

superintendent, and four leading committee members, represented their organizations. From the National Bible Society of Scotland came the general secretary, the Reverend R. F. Chisholm, together with five responsible officers of the Society. The Société Biblique de France sent its chairman and its general agent; while the Norwegian Bible Society was represented by its general secretary. The Netherlands Bible Society, which is this year celebrating its one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary, was, of course, present in force. Other European Bible Societies had been invited, but found it impossible to send a delegation.

One afternoon and evening were spent at Amsterdam, where the

delegates were graciously received by the Minister of Education, and shown through a special exhibition of Biblical art. The same evening they were present at the official reception for the members of the

mendations later found a place among the resolutions of the conference.

Translation, together with the closely allied topics of "distribution" and "illiteracy," occupied a good deal of the thought of the conference. It is true that some part of the Bible can be found in over a thousand tongues, and that during the past thirty-five years the increase in distribution has been amazing. Yet, though nine tenths of the languages spoken by man have been harnessed to the Scriptures, not one person in five possesses a copy. And,

in spite of the great advance of Christianity abroad, the increase of population has been greater, so that there are now millions more non-Christians in the world than existed ten years ago. Our best efforts thus far have not kept us from falling behind.

Over sixty percent of the people of the world are still illiterate. But the great movements toward literacy in China, India, and elsewhere are raising up millions of new adult readers. If the gospel is to reach these as they become literate, the ingenuity and resources of the Bible Societies will be strained as never before.

In the face of these facts, and after having most encouraging reports of the results of cooperation



THE CONFERENCE GROUP

Back row (left to right): Rev. W. J. Platt (Home Supt., BFBS), Rev. John A. Patten (Literary Supt., BFBS), Col. Sir Cusack Walton (BFBS), Rev. D. Crommelin (NBS), Mr. W. A. Anderson (NBSS), Mr. George A. MacLellan (Vice Chairman, NBSS), Sir William Shenton (Chairman, Version Committee, BFBS), Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum (Secretary for Turkey, ABS and BFBS), Rev. A. Irvine Pirie (Chairman, NBSS), Mr. James W. R. Carrol (Business Manager, NBSS).

Middle row (left to right): Rev. D. E. Boeke (Home Secretary, NBS), Rev. L. Koren (Gen. Secretary, Norwegian Bible Society), Col. Georges Bertrand-Vigne (Gen. Agent, Bible Society of France), Sir F. Graeme Tyrrell (BFBS), Rev. Dr. John R. Temple (Secretary, BFBS), Rev. R. F. Chisholm (Secretary, NBSS), Rev. Dr. Eric M. North (Secretary, ABS), Rev. Dr. A. L. Warnshuis (ABS), Dr. H. C. Rutgers (Secretary, NBS).

Seated (left to right): Miss Lieneman (staff, NBS), Mr. Eringa (staff, NBS), Miss Forbes (staff, NBSS), Rev. Professor Philippe de Felice (Chairman, BS of France), Miss Herd (staff, NBSS), Mr. David Wight (Vice President, NBSS), Mr. Alex. MacKelvie (Hon. Treas., NBSS), Miss van Rees (staff, NBS), Mr. H. B. Figgis (BFBS).

World Youth Conference then being held in Amsterdam.

In his opening address, the Reverend H. Kraemer, author of the book which did so much for the Madras Conference, called upon the Bible Societies to take active steps to open the eyes of mission authorities and national churches overseas to the necessity of, and means for, a fuller use of the Bible. On mission fields there is often the same neglect of the Bible which we lament at home. He also urged that the Societies issue collections of simple Bible stories and paraphrase translations, which would be of inestimable value in familiarizing people with the language of the Bible in preparation for more complete translations. These recom-

in various fields, Dr. John R. Mott appealed to the Bible Societies to strive for maximum results by the fullest possible cooperation among themselves. "Your work," he said, "is the most fully multiplying there is. It is also the most strategic, as it is the basis for all else. It moves me with awe when I think of what God can do as he breaks through the pages of the gospel which you circulate."

A fundamental article in the constitutions of most Bible Societies is that bearing on circulation of the Scriptures "without note or comment." A comparison of the practice of each Society showed considerable variation in the interpretation placed upon this restriction. Requests from mission fields for the inclusion of additional helps of a nondoctrinal character were frequent. It was felt that versions committees might well give favorable consideration to such requests. "Our real aim is the Bible in the lives of the people," declared one delegate. "We ought to provide people with what they really require."

The growing sense of unity in all essentials and of the serious task confronting the Bible Societies made it almost inevitable that they should vote unanimously in favor of

forming an advisory council for the exchange of information and to facilitate cooperation and united action. This council will be constituted, with Dr. H. C. Rutgers as its secretary, when any three of the

Societies there present formally decide to enter it.

The spirit and expectations of the conference were, at its close, expressed in the resolution given below.

The representatives of the Bible Societies record their thankfulness to God for his many blessings to the Societies and for the large measure of success achieved in the distribution of the Scriptures throughout the world, but express to their Societies their consciousness of the vast task still lying before the Societies and the Churches in carrying the Word of God to every man.

The steady increase of population, the more rapid growth of literacy, the manifest evidence of the hunger of vast multitudes for spiritual guidance, the peril that powerful opposition to the gospel may shut off large populations from the opportunity to receive the gospel, confront the Societies with very great issues.

The Conference would express to the Societies the hope that renewed efforts may be made by all to convey the conviction that God is calling his people to greater consecration, to more devoted prayer and greater sacrifices, that the Word of God may find its way into the hearts of all his children, and that his redemptive power may be manifest among them all.

(Continued from page 131)

veloping Christian leadership in those she has taught. Former members of her classes are now in prominent places in many communities in this and other countries. The secret of this unusual ability is hinted at in the statement she recently made to a fellow member of the church in Jackson Heights.

"I have been recompensed in the growth in knowledge of the Word, my deepened sympathy with human frailties, the great marvel of the Lord's goodness, and his ability to use the frailest and weakest of us humans when we lend ourselves to him."

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How about Your Neighbor?

THE following incident is contributed by Rev. H. C. Bode of Kalamazoo, Michigan, who is himself a Life Director of the American Bible Society and has made his wife and four children Life Members, representing in all a contribution of \$400:

I am a minister and preached the gospel for forty-five years. Forty-three years ago we lived in a little Iowa town eight and a half miles from the station.

Next to our church lived the Oliver family. I knew that they had no Bible and never attended services. I wrote to the American Bible Society and asked them to send the family a Bible, stating that it was from a friend who requested them to make good use of it. We had forgotten for some time about this when Mrs. Oliver took sick. Mrs. Bode went to see her. The family spoke about the present, but did not know who knew they did not have a Bible. Mrs. Oliver grew worse, and I went to see them. They told me the same story. I asked whether I might read a portion of the Bible. They said, "Why, surely." Then I asked whether I might offer prayer, believing that they went together. They permitted this, and said it had done them much good. The patient gradually grew worse, and I called again and again, and every time, before I left, one of the children came with the Bible.

In her last hours, Mrs. Oliver said that she could hear the bells of heaven ring, and asked us and the neighbors to sing. This we did and, again and again, she asked, "Sing more." Thus through the greater part of the night we sang, and with gladness upon her face she passed away.

Mr. Bode and his wife were good to their neighbors. How about your neighbor?

EDITORIAL COMMENT

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy
Scriptures*

*Editors: THE SECRETARIES
Address correspondence to Francis
Carr Stifler, Editorial Secretary,
Bible House, Park Avenue and
57th Street, New York*



VOL. 84 OCTOBER 1939 No. 8

The Truth That Makes Men Free

THIS is the theme for Universal Bible Sunday to be celebrated on December 10. It is much more timely than when it was chosen several months ago. The brochure has been written by President John Alexander Mackay of Princeton Theological Seminary, and treats most illuminatingly of the part the Bible has played in gaining for the world those cherished liberties of soul that are just now in such jeopardy. The poster has been prepared by Rockwell Kent. The poster and the brochure together with other materials will be mailed during this month to more than 100,000 pastors throughout the country.

Is your pastor reserving December 10 for the celebration?

On the Wednesdays of October, Secretary Stifler will continue his series of coast-to-coast broadcasts over Station WEAJ and the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company at 12:30 Eastern

Standard Time. These broadcasts, which have been running since August 2, have been on the same theme, "The Truth That Makes Men Free." The four remaining are entitled: "Keeping Freedom Alive," "Custodians of Freedom," "Freedom's Textbook," "The Truth That Makes Men Free."

Copies of the scripts may be had by writing to the station on which the program is heard.

Many favorable comments have been made of the beautiful stained glass window which is the dominating feature of the Society's exhibit at the New York World's Fair. This win-



dow was made possible through the generous cooperation of Mr. William Durhan, of George Durhan & Son, 210 East 35th Street, New York City, manufacturers of stained and leaded glass windows. At the close of the Fair, this window will be available at a greatly reduced

price. Any person interested should correspond with the Durhan Company.

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September Meeting of the Board

THE fifth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-fourth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, on Thursday, September 7, 1939, at 3:30 p.m., President John T. Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Dr. Mark A. Dawber.

The minutes of the fourth stated meeting of the year were approved.

The Recording Secretary reported the death, on August 23, of a Vice President, Dr. John R. Hawkins, and the following memorial minute was adopted:

John R. Hawkins

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society records with deep regret the death of Dr. John R. Hawkins, Vice President of the Society since 1921 and for twenty-seven years financial secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Hawkins was a notable example of the vision and capacity of an able layman in the service of great religious enterprises. He was responsible for the administration of large funds, loyal, efficient and faithful in his service, and cultured and wise in his leadership. He held a distinguished place among the religious leaders of the American churches.

The Board of Managers express to his church and his family their sympathy in his passing.

The death, on September 2, of Rev. M. L. Vaughters, Secretary of the Dallas Division of the Haven Agency, was reported, and a memorial minute was adopted (see page 127 of this issue).

Mrs. William I. Haven and Mr. Frank C. Goodman were elected Managers.

Secretary North reported on his recent trip to London and to Woudschoten, Holland, where the International Conference of Bible Societies was held July 24-28.

Minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

A world at war is a world that needs the Bible. The sole purpose of the American Bible Society being to make the Bible available when and where it is most needed, the following action taken at the September meeting of the Board of Managers was most appropriate:

That Secretary North and Treasurer Darlington be directed to convey to the British and Foreign Bible Society, the National Bible Society of Scotland, the Netherlands Bible Society, and the Bible Society of France, the readiness of the American Bible Society to render any assistance possible in maintaining the supply of Scriptures within their national boundaries or for their work abroad, and in facilitating arrangements for the administration of such work should that be required;

That the officers be requested to inquire of the Bible Society of France whether copies of the French pocket Testament would be of service among the mobilized troops, and, if so, of the readiness of the American Bible Society to supply several thousand copies.

There are more copies of the Bible on the shelves of Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh than any book of nonfiction, excepting the plays of Shakespeare, according to Victor C. Showers, assistant in the reference room of the main library. Despite the fact that hotels are supplied with Bibles, and a large percentage of homes have them, it is necessary for the library to keep 129 copies in the

English language alone to meet daily calls for the Book. The library also has copies of twenty-five other languages. In addition to the 129 copies for circulation, 95 copies are kept in the permanent reference collection.

Form of a Bequest to the Society

I give and bequeath to the American Bible Society formed in New York in the year eighteen hundred and sixteen, and incorporated in the year eighteen hundred and forty-one, the sum of _____.

If real estate is given, for the last three words above, "the sum of," substitute the words "the following property, to wit."

HAVE
YOU
Staked
OUR CLAIM
IN KINGDOM
EXTENSION?



- \$600 needed for Bulu Bibles.
 - \$1200 for publishing new translations in the Philippines.
 - \$2000 necessary to supply C.C.C. boys with Testaments.
 - \$5940 needed for colportage work in Japan.
 - \$7500 to provide the Blind with embossed Scriptures.
- These are only a few of the many urgent needs confronting the Society

The American Bible Society invites you to ready the lives of thousands of boys in C.C.C. Camps. aspire to wholesome Christian living a vast population of colored people. ace many hundreds of volumes radiant with comfort in the hands of the Blind of many lands. ve to the teeming millions the only textbook for a new and joyous way of life.

SPECIAL OFFER Every contributor of \$1 or more will receive upon request a 17 1/2 x 10 inch complete map in 3 colors like the one reproduced above, as well as a year's subscription to the Bible Society Record.

What was the company of those that published it - 1816

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, Dept. CH-1, Bible House, New York, N. Y.

Conscious of the great opportunity and need confronting the American Bible Society, and eager to respond, I gladly send herewith the amount checked.

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\$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$5 ☐ \$1 ☐



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